

Officer of the Year selected



*Corrections Officer of the Year
Inspector Kenneth E. Hatfield*

Kenneth E. Hatfield, an investigator with the Michigan Department of Corrections (MDOC) Field Operations Administration (FOA) Region III Absconder Recovery Unit has been named 2005 Michigan Corrections Officer of the Year.

His selection was made by the State Standards Committee of the Michigan Correctional Officers' Training Council. He was chosen from nominees that came from every state prison, camp and community supervision region in the state.

Investigator Hatfield of DeWitt is a nine-year veteran of the corrections department. His absconder recovery unit is part of a regional MDOC team that covers 60 counties in the mid-Michigan area. Prior to becoming an investigator with the unit, he worked as a corrections officer and transportation officer in several correctional facilities where he also served as a member of the Emergency Response Team.

"Investigator Hatfield has been directly involved with the apprehension of some seriously assaultive felons including armed robbers, sex offenders and murderers," said FOA Regional Administrator Noreen Sawatzki. "His outstanding investigative work has helped to make our cities and communities safer for us all."

Hatfield plays an important role in a sweep operation held in conjunction with law enforcement agencies throughout mid-Michigan. The program rounds up absconders from parole and probation as well as other criminals and takes them off the streets.

In addition to their outstanding service to the department, candidates for the corrections officer honor are judged on the basis of their work ethic, MDOC policy compliance, communications skills and professionalism. Each must provide a positive role model and sound judgment in emergency situations.

The Officer of the Year was selected from among four other finalists; Thomas Greenhoe, Ionia Maximum Correctional Facility; Cheryl Masker, Baraga Maximum Correctional Facility; John Mayer, Carson City Correctional Facility and Mike Taylor, Marquette Branch Prison.

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Officer of the Year selected

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From left: RUO Mike Taylor, C/O Cheryl Masker, RUO John Mayer, C/O Thomas Greenhoe, and Inspector Kenneth Hatfield

Corrections Officer Thomas R. Greenhoe, Ionia Maximum Correctional Facility, (ICF) joined the MDOC in 1987. C/O Greenhoe has served as a weapons instructor for the past 16 years. He is a certified transportation officer, firearms instructor and PA415 trainer. C/O Greenhoe has been lauded for his positive attitude and tremendous work ethic. He once entered a burning cell and pulled out an unconscious prisoner. In addition, he developed and implemented a user-friendly computer program that maintains

training dates for every ICF employee. A valuable community member, C/O Greenhoe runs a 26-week youth roller hockey league and teaches hunter safety classes and a personal protection class for women.

Cheryl M. Masker is an Information Desk Officer at Baraga Maximum Correctional Facility. She has been with the department since 1993 and has been instrumental in the development of emergency guidelines for administration building porters. She has worked to streamline the visitation process for the facility during parole hearings and court proceedings. Lauded as a team player, C/O Masker goes the extra mile, often taking on additional responsibilities and volunteering to make sure the job is done. A strong proponent of the employee club, C/O Masker works to encourage unity in the workplace. She facilitates fund-raising projects for those in need and prevented a tragedy by saving the life of a local child who was being dragged under a vehicle. C/O Masker's professionalism and positive image reflects well on the facility as well as the department as a whole. In the community, she coordinates food drives and mitten trees and works for the March of Dimes and Relay for Life.

Resident Unit Officer Mike Taylor, Marquette Branch Prison, is a 20-year veteran of the MDOC. He has served as the local chief union steward for the last 12 years. In addition, RUO Taylor is the recipient of two special commendations for actions taken in the line of duty. As a foster parent for the Marquette County Juvenile Court, RUO Taylor and his wife have helped to raise nine foster children over the last 10 years. He is active with Marquette Junior Hockey and is a USA and Michigan High School Athletic Association Hockey Referee and Official.

John Mayer, Resident Unit Officer, Carson City Correctional Facility, is responsible for the development and implementation of numerous procedures and practices of the current operations of the Carson City segregation unit. An officer since 1985, RUO Mayer has assisted many staff and inmates by taking control and diffusing potentially dangerous situations. RUO Mayer is known as a role model at his facility and in the community. He often encourages others to consider a corrections career. An active leader with the Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts, he mentors and teaches at many recreation and sporting events. He has worked as a counselor for the handicapped youth during summer camp. His work with the Michigan Youth Challenge Academy, a program designed to stabilize troubled youth as an alternative to incarceration, has influenced the lives of many youth within the community.

All the nominees for the Officer of the Year award will be honored at a banquet on May 4 in East Lansing. [3/4/2](#)

Go jump in the lake



Cat (at left) Muskegon Probation Agent Amanda Barclay jumped with Cat in the Hat Muskegon Probation Agent Amber Gonzalez



Bernadette Stone, Saginaw Correctional Facility

The Muskegon Law Enforcement Torch Run held their first Polar Plunge on February 19 at YMCA Camp Pendalouan in Montague. The event was hosted by the three area Muskegon prisons— Muskegon Correctional Facility, Earnest C. Brooks Correctional Facility and West Shoreline Correctional Facility. Fifteen plungers participated in this event, raising about \$1,500.

Saginaw Correctional Facility hosted their Second Annual *Freeze Your Fur* Polar Plunge on Saturday, February 12 at Saginaw's Haithco Recreation Area. Eighty plungers took part in this year's event, with staff from Saginaw, Standish, Chippewa, Crane, Egeler and Southern Michigan facilities along with personnel from various law enforcement agencies, including the Michigan State Police.



From left: Kendall Snow, Southern Michigan Correctional Facility and C/O Jerry Zajac, Saginaw Correctional Facility.

RPA Barbara Bock lent her skills as a judge for the costume event, assisting Warden Jan Trombley, ADWs Val Chaplin and Susan Kohloff, Channel 5 reporter Alix Hayes and two Special Olympians. Stuart Schwiegert of the Oakland Raiders and Kelly Butler of the Detroit Lions were two of the celebrities taking the plunge along with Scott Stine of Oldies 96 radio.

Organizers of the event, Deputy Warden Erick Balcarcel, Corrections Resident Rep. Bernadette Stone and Sgt. Cory Crugher, reported that more than \$15,000 was raised at the event for Special Olympics. *F.Y.I.*

Rec day is July 29, 2005

Mark your calendar now for the 2005 Annual Employee Recreation Day (ERD). This year's event is scheduled for July 29, 2005.

Last year, over 220 corrections employees, friends, spouses and retirees participated in recreation day. The event offered golf, bowling, billiards, basketball and the newest addition, Texas Hold-em Poker. Over \$2,262 was raised for charity.

Both Correctional Facilities Administration and Field Operations Administration facilities and employees generously donated gifts for the department's first auction for charity.

"We encourage more employees to attend and hope that our efforts to raise money for charities will continue to grow," said Pam Nelson, Rec Day Committee member.

The ERD committee welcomes any comments or suggestions for Employee Rec Day. Some common concerns about the event include:

- Administrative leave—It cannot be granted to anyone who attends or volunteers for ERC.
- Length of Day—In order to accommodate all employees, golf is offered in the morning and afternoon and for those who do not golf, bowling, basketball and billiards are offered. Dinner immediately follows at the end of the day for those who wish to attend without taking time off work.
- Prizes—The committee typically hands out prizes after dinner. You must be present to win. It has been difficult in the past to ensure prizes are delivered to those not in attendance.

If you have any suggestions, please e-mail your comments to Pam Nelson, Mike Draschil or Sue Mulford. Please title your e-mail *ERD comments*. [7.4.1](#)

Oaks facility shows support



Oaks Correctional Facility staff, led by C/O Pat Gibson, tied a yellow ribbon onto the facility's roadside sign in honor of Sgt. Chip Cross and Sgt. Chet Morang, both called to active duty and bound for Iraq. [7.4.1](#)



A Valentine's bake sale at Oaks Correctional Facility raised \$812.50 for Breast Cancer Research. The sale was headed up by Vicki Jensen, RN (at left). Don Dougherty, MD makes a purchase. [7.4.1](#)

Re-entry initiative enters Phase II

The Michigan Prisoner ReEntry Initiative (MPRI) is ready to enter phase II of the MPRI Model (Going Home: The ReEntry Planning Phase) at two locations in the state.

The selected venues include a 480-bed housing unit at Cooper Street Correctional Facility and a partial housing unit at Camp Brighton. The locations are being readied for the first re-entry prison units with hopes for a mid-March implementation. A team at each location will create the program design and address issues of staffing and funding.

“The re-entry philosophy is gaining momentum and we are working to demonstrate how the model can be implemented on a large scale in a prison before we begin to fully spread the model into other institutions,” said Correctional Facilities Administration (CFA) Deputy Director Dennis Straub.

To accomplish that task, CFA has formed a Logistics Committee, co-chaired by Regional Prison Administrator James MacMeekin and Warden Blaine Lafler, which consists of wardens and staff from CFA Central Office and the Policy and Strategic Planning Administration. The committee is charged with meeting the challenges involved in eventually moving inmates to prisons that are near their home as the MPRI Model dictates.

“You can imagine the complexity of trying to figure out how we’re going to move inmates into the first participating facilities that are nearer to the eight community pilot sites,” said Twyla Snow, Manager of the Office of Offender Re-entry in the Policy and Strategic Planning Administration. “The logistics committee is creating a plan that can be implemented when each facility is ready. We will have to determine, not just the number of inmates that will be moved, but also the timing of the inmate movement.”

It is anticipated that the first facilities to be involved in the first wave of moving prisoners to facilities closer to their home will begin sometime in the next several months.

Institutions deemed ready for the re-entry programming will be conducting frequent meetings between inmates and transition teams that consist of members of the local community pilot steering teams, institutional and CFA Central Office staff. Staffing patterns and functions and interaction among the community representatives and inmate family members will be demonstrated and modeled at the two new re-entry prison sites.

“The critical juncture between CFA and FOA staff at the institutions is going to be one of the hallmarks of the MPRI model that will be shaped at these two sites,” said Dennis Schrantz, Deputy Director of the Policy and Strategic Planning Administration.

An increasing number of Field Operations Administration (FOA) representatives are engaged in the planning for the MPRI Model. Recently three new committees were formed to explore issues related to the initiative: Re-Entry Transition Accountability Plan, Parole Violations Guidelines and Parole Conditions.

“These committees will be very active in the next several months reviewing current practices and making recommendations consistent with the MPRI Model,” said FOA Deputy Director Joan Yukins. *F.Y.I.*

While the sites are being readied and the program design is completed, the three primary MPRI workgroups (“Getting Ready,” “Going Home” and “Staying Home”) will continue to develop the MPRI Model for the next several months.

Are you worried about a friend or loved one?

News from your Employee Service Program

Did you know?

Seventy percent of people who commit suicide tell someone about it in advance. Sometimes those contemplating suicide talk as if they are saying goodbye or going away forever. One study observed that nearly 50 percent of suicide victims had a positive blood alcohol level. Between 20 and 40 percent of people who kill themselves have previously attempted suicide. Those who have made serious suicide attempts are at much higher risk for actually taking their lives. Although most depressed people are not suicidal, most suicidal people are depressed. Serious depression can be manifested in obvious sadness, but often is expressed instead as a loss of pleasure or withdrawal from activities that were once enjoyable.

Answer the following questions for your friend or loved one.

Part I. Suicide Risk Questionnaire

Have you heard?

- ★ I feel there is no way out.
- ★ I'd be better off dead.
- ★ Life isn't worth living.
- ★ You'll be sorry when I'm gone.
- ★ I won't be around to deal with that.
- ★ My family would be better off without me.
- ★ Next time I'll take enough pills to do the job right.
- ★ Take my (prized collection, valuables) – I don't need this stuff anymore.
- ★ I just can't deal with everything—life's too hard.
- ★ Nobody understands me—nobody feels the way I do.
- ★ I won't be in your way much longer.
- ★ There's nothing I can do to make it better.

Have you observed?

- ★ Getting affairs in order (paying off debts, changing a will).
- ★ Giving away articles of either personal or monetary value.
- ★ Signs of planning a suicide such as obtaining a weapon or writing a suicide note.

Part II. Depression Risk Questionnaire

Have you noticed the following signs of depression?

- ★ Depressed mood.
- ★ Change in weight or appetite.
- ★ Feelings of worthlessness, self-reproach or guilt.
- ★ Change in sleeping patterns (too much/little, disturbances).
- ★ Thoughts of death, suicide, or wishes to be dead.
- ★ Speaking and/or moving with unusual speed or slowness.
- ★ Loss of interest or pleasure in usual activities.
- ★ Withdrawal from family and friends.
- ★ Fatigue or loss of energy.
- ★ Diminished ability to think or concentrate, slowed thinking or indecisiveness.

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If depression seems possible, have you also noticed?

- ★ Extreme anxiety, agitation, or enraged behavior.
- ★ Excessive drug and/or alcohol use or abuse.
- ★ Neglect of physical health.
- ★ Feelings of hopelessness or desperation.

Questionnaire interpretation:

If you checked any of:

Part I. only, your friend or family member may be at risk for suicide and should seek professional help immediately.

Part II. only, your friend may be suffering from depression and should seek further evaluation with a mental health professional or his or her primary care physician.

Parts I. and II., the suicide risk is even higher. **Strongly encourage your friend to seek professional help immediately.**

What to do if you suspect a friend or loved one is suicidal.

★ **Do take it seriously.** Seventy percent of all people who commit suicide give some warning of their intentions to a friend or member of their family.

★ **Do be willing to listen.** Even if professional help is needed, your friend or loved one will be more willing to seek help if you have listened to him or her.

★ **Do voice your concern.** Take the initiative to ask what is troubling your friend or loved one, and attempt to overcome any reluctance on their part to talk about it.

★ **Do let the person know you care and understand.** Reassure your friend or loved one that he or she is not alone. Explain that, although powerful, suicidal feelings are temporary, depression can be treated and problems can be solved.

★ **Do ask if the person has a specific plan** for committing suicide, and how far he or she has gone in carrying it out. (*Note: asking about suicide does not cause a person to think about—or commit—suicide. This is a myth.*)

★ **Do get professional help immediately.** Bring your friend to a local hospital emergency room or crisis center (if your friend is already in treatment, contact his or her clinician). Your friend will be more likely to seek help if you accompany him or her. If all else fails, notify your community police, who are trained to handle situations like this.

★ **Do follow up on treatment.** Take an active role in following up with the treatment process and medications. Be sure to notify the physician about any unexpected side effects or changes in behavior.

★ **If for any reason you are unsure, uncomfortable, or unable to take action,** find a responsible adult with whom to share your concerns or contact your local police. It is better to have an angry friend than a dead one.

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Whatever you choose to do, the important thing is to *make the effort*.

Don't assume the situation will take care of itself.

Don't leave the person alone.

Don't be sworn to secrecy.

Don't act shocked or surprised at what the person says.

Don't challenge or dare.

Don't argue or debate moral issues.

If you are in a suicidal crisis call 911 and ask for help. Tell them you are in suicidal danger.

The National Suicidal Hotline is also available 24 hours a day, seven days a week at **1-800-784-2433** (for TTY please call **1-800-448-1833**).

A resource that is also available to classified state employees and immediate family is the Employee Service Program (ESP). Contact ESP Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. to talk to a counselor by telephone or in person. In Lansing call (517) 373-7630 or 1-800-521-1377. In Detroit call (313) 456-4020 or 1-800-872-5563. Or visit our website at: www.michigan.gov/esp. *f.y.i.*

This article has been adapted with permission from National Screening for Mental Health, Inc.

MDOC staff receives thank you from Red Cross



Director Patricia L. Caruso accepted an award from the American Red Cross Mid-Michigan Chapter on behalf of the MDOC staff for their fundraising efforts.

A department-wide casual day netted more than \$25,000 for the Tsunami relief effort.

Terry Hickey, Mid-Michigan Red Cross Chief Development Officer commended the employees of the department for their outstanding efforts. *f.y.i.*



Director Patricia L. Caruso accepts the award at the Mid-Michigan Red Cross Board of Directors meeting.